so far under the scheme for a total number of 67 projects/works.

Various Commodity Boards are implementing schemes for providing incentives and assistance for export through the State Governments.

(c) Under Rule 8 of the Income Tax Rules, income chargeable to tax from sale of tea grown and manufactured in India including export earning is apportioned between the States and the Centre in the ratio of 60:40.

Crisis in paper and pulp industry

†331. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 150 years old paper and pulp industry of the country is passing through difficult times for which main reasons are heavy cost on paper industry and non-availability of raw material in adequate quantity; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The main problems being faced by the Paper and Pulp Industry are:—

(i) Inadequate availability and high cost of raw material.
(ii) Technological obsolescence.
(iii) Costly and inadequate availability of grid power.
(iv) Capital intensive nature of Industry.

The Government has taken number of steps to help the Paper and Pulp Industry, including the following:

(i) The industry has completely been delicensed, subject to the locational policy.
(ii) The induction of technology is allowed both FDI and through foreign technology collaborations.
(iii) A concessional excise duty of 8% is levied on paper manufactured with not less than 75% non-conventional raw material.
(iv) The excise duty on wood based paper and paper board has been brought down from 18% to 16% during 1999-2000.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(v) The basic import duty on pulp and waste paper has been kept at 5%.

(vi) The basic customs duty on imported paper has been increased from 30% to 35%.

(vii) The Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute is assisting the paper industry through research and development in areas like chemical recovery system, raw material studies, energy conservation etc.

Development of backward and adivasi areas in Maharashtra

332. SHRI SURYABHAN PATTL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement a centrally-sponsored scheme for development of backward and adivasi populated areas of Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose during the current Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) In June, 1988 Government of India announced the Growth Centre Scheme in order to promote industrialization. Under this scheme 71 growth centres are to be developed throughout the country endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication and banking, etc. enabling diem to attract industries. The growth centres to be developed are selected on the basis of a combined criteria of population, area and industrial backwardness.

To set up the growth centres the Central Govt, would provide an assistance of Rs. 10 crore each in terms of equity with the remaining fund requirement to be arranged by the State Government concerned.

Given below are details of the five growth centres approved to be set up in Maharashtra alongwith amount of Central assistance released so far:—

Growth Centres in Maharashtra

(Rupees in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of the Centre	Central assistance released
1.	Akola	950
2.	Chandrapur	600
3.	Dhule	450
4.	Nanded	750
5.	Ratnagiri	440